

## REMARKS

New independent claims 30 and 37 and their dependent claims are presented. Each new independent claim recites that a first portable reader sends first symbol data to a second reader which, in turn, sends the first data to a host computer. The second reader generates its own second symbol data which is also sent to the host computer. Hence, data is sent to the host computer only from the second reader, either by generating its own symbol data, or by obtaining and relaying symbol data from the first reader.

As the Examiner acknowledged, U.S. Patent No. 6,327,570 to Stevens, the principal reference, fails to disclose that the professional unit sends bar code data to a host computer, either generated by itself or by another source.

Hence, the Examiner relied on U.S. Patent No. 6,021,362 to Maggard to show that a scanner 16 can transmit bar code data to a host computer 18. Even so, Maggard does not teach that the bar code data transmitted to the host computer 18 can originate from another source.

The Examiner further relied on U.S. Patent No. 4,554,446 to Murphy. However, this reference is no better than Maggard in that Murphy also discloses that the output of a checkout scanner 10 is sent to an in-store data processor. The scanner 10 does not obtain or relay bar code data from another source.

Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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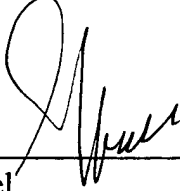
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## NEW CLAIMS

30. A method of acquiring data, comprising the steps of:
- a) electro-optically reading a first coded symbol by a first portable reader operated by a user to produce first symbol data;
  - b) electro-optically reading a second coded symbol by a second reader to produce second symbol data;
  - c) transmitting the second symbol data over a wired connection to a host computer for processing the second symbol data;
  - d) transmitting the first symbol data over a wireless connection to the second reader for reception therein; and
  - e) transmitting the first symbol data received in the second reader over said wired connection to the host computer for processing the first symbol data.

31. The method of claim 30, and the step of supporting the first portable reader by the user during reading of the first coded symbol.

32. The method of claim 30, and the step of configuring the wired connection as a fixed cable extending between the second reader and the host computer.

33. The method of claim 30, and the step of configuring the wireless connection between the first and second readers by mounting wireless transceivers in the first and second readers.

34. The method of claim 30, and the step of configuring the wireless connection as one of a radio frequency protocol, a Bluetooth protocol, an infrared protocol and an IEEE 802.11 protocol.

35. The method of claim 30, and the step of decoding the first and second symbol data prior to transmission to the host computer.

36. The method of claim 30, and the step of decoding the first and second symbol data in the host computer.

37. A system for acquiring data, comprising:

a) a first portable reader operated by a user for electro-optically reading a first coded symbol to produce first symbol data;

b) a second reader for electro-optically reading a second coded symbol to produce second symbol data;

c) a host computer connected to the second reader by a wired connection for transmitting the second symbol data from the second reader to the host computer for processing;

d) a wireless connection between the readers for transmitting the first symbol data from the first reader to the second reader for reception therein; and

e) said wired connection being further operative for transmitting the first symbol data received in the second reader to the host computer for processing.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the first portable reader is supported by the user during reading of the first coded symbol.

39. The system of claim 37, wherein the wired connection is a fixed cable.

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40. The system of claim ~~37~~ wherein the wireless connection includes wireless transceivers mounted in the first and second readers.

41. The system of claim 37, wherein the wireless connection is one of a radio frequency protocol, a Bluetooth protocol, an infrared protocol and an IEEE 802.11 protocol.

42. The system of claim 37, and a decoder in one of the readers and the host computer for decoding the first and second symbol data.

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